

# REPORT OF NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 4th February 1893.

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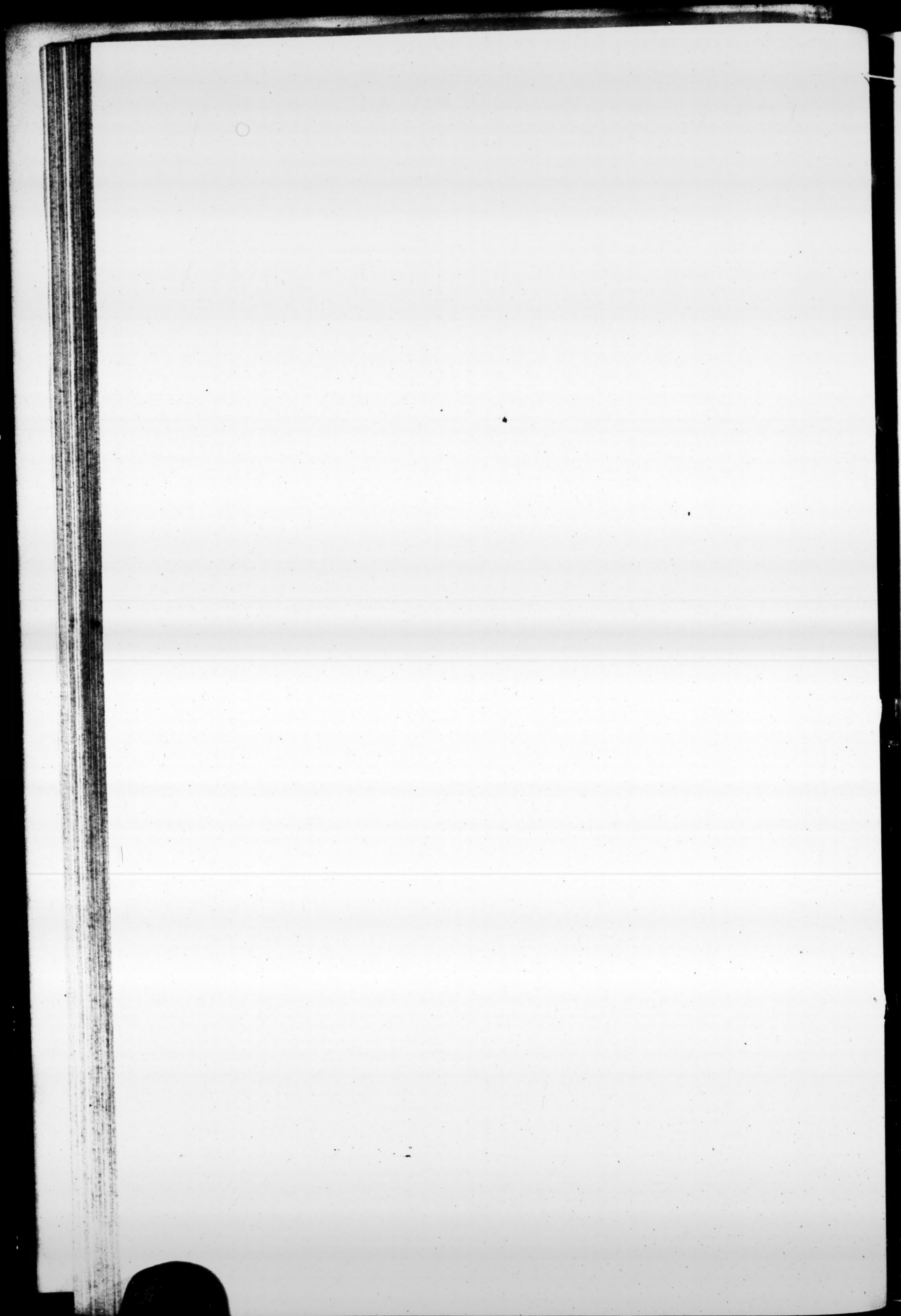
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		Nil.	

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	
BENGALI.					
Fortnightly.					
1	"Ahmadi" ...	Tangail, Mymensingh	600	27th January 1893.	
2	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	...		
3	"Gramvāsi" ...	Ramkristopur, Howrah	1,000		
4	"Kaliyuga" ...	Calcutta	...		
5	"Kasipur Nivāsi" ...	Kasipur, Barisāl	280		
6	"Navamihir" ...	Ghatail, Mymensingh	500		
7	"Sadar-o-Mufassal" ...	Tahirpur, Rajshahi	...		
8	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	700		
Tri-monthly.					
9	"Hitakari" ...	Tangail Mymensingh	800	28th January 1893. 27th ditto. 24th and 31st January 1893. 23rd and 30th ditto. 29th January 1893. 27th ditto. 26th ditto. 28th ditto. 27th ditto. 25th ditto. 27th ditto. 28th ditto. 28th ditto. 28th ditto. 30th ditto. 28th ditto. 26th to 28th and 30th and 31st January 1893. 26th and 27th January 1893. 29th January to 2nd February 1893. 26th, 27th, 30th and 31st January and 2nd February 1893. 27th and 28th January and 30th January to 2nd February 1893. 28th January and 30th January to 1st February 1893.	
Weekly.					
10	"Bangavāsi" ...	Calcutta	20,000		
11	"Banganivāsi" ...	Ditto	8,000		
12	"Burdwān Sanjivāni" ...	Burdwan	335		
13	"Chāruvārtā" ...	Sherpur, Mymensingh	400		
14	"Dacca Prakāsh" ...	Dacca	2,200		
15	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	825		
16	"Hindu Banjikā" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi	212		
17	"Hitavādī" ...	Calcutta	...		
18	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	...		
19	"Navayuga" ...	Calcutta	500		
20	"Prakriti" ...	Ditto	...		
21	"Pratikār" ...	Berhampore	609		
22	"Prithivi" ...	Calcutta	...		
23	"Rangpur Dikprakāsh" ...	Kakinia, Rangpur	...		
24	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta	800-1,000		
25	"Sahayogi" ...	Barisāl	342		
26	"Sakti" ...	Dacca	...		
27	"Samāj-o-Sāhitya" ...	Garibpore, Nadia	1,000		
28	"Samaya" ...	Calcutta	3,000		
29	"Sanjivāni" ...	Ditto	4,000		
30	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong	...		
31	"Sāraswat Patra" ...	Dacca	300		
32	"Som Prakāsh" ...	Calcutta	600		
33	"Srimanta Sadagar" ...	Ditto	...		
34	"Sudhākar" ...	Ditto	3,100		
35	"Sulabh Samāchar" ...	Ditto	...		
Daily.					
36	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ...	Calcutta	500		
37	"Bengal Exchange Gazette" ...	Ditto	...		
38	"Dainik-o-Samāchār Chandrikā" ...	Ditto	1,000		
39	"Samvād Prabhākar" ...	Ditto	1,500		
40	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	300		
41	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	...		
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
42	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca	...		
HINDI.					
Monthly.					
43	"Darjeeling Mission ke Māsik Samāchār Patrika." ...	Darjeeling	50		
44	"Kshatriya Patrikā" ...	Patna	250		
Weekly.					
45	"Aryāvarta" ...	Dinapore	750		
46	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipore	500		
47	"Bhārat Mitra" ...	Calcutta	1,200		
48	"Champaran Chandrika" ...	Bettiah	350		
49	"Desī Vyāpārī" ...	Calcutta	...		
50	"Hindī Bangavāsi" ...	Ditto	...		
51	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ...	Ditto	500		
52	"Uchit Baktā" ...	Ditto	4,500		



No.	Names of newspapers.		Place of publication.		Reported number of subscribers.	Date of papers received and examined for the week.
URDU.						
Weekly.						
53	" Akhbar-i-Al Punch "	...	Bankipore	...	.....	23rd January 1893.
54	" Anis "	...	Patna	...	.....	
55	" Calcutta Punch "	...	Calcutta	...	.....	23rd and 30th January 1893. 26th January 1893.
56	" Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide "	...	Ditto	...	340	
57	" General and Gauhariasfi "	...	Ditto	...	.....	
58	" Mehre Monawar "	...	Muzaffarpur	...	.....	
59	" Raisul-Akhbari-Murshidabad "	...	Murhidabad	...	150	
60	" Setare Hind "	...	Arrah	...	.....	
61	" Shokh "	...	Monghyr	...	.....	
URIYA.						
Monthly.						
62	" Asha "	...	Cuttack	...	165	
63	" Echo "	...	Ditto	...	.....	
64	" Pradip "	...	Ditto	...	.....	
65	" Samyabadi "	...	Ditto	...	.....	
66	" Taraka and Subhavartá "	...	Ditto	...	.....	
67	" Utkalprabhá "	...	Baripada	...	.....	
Weekly.						
68	" Dipaka "	...	Cuttack	...	.....	
69	" Samvad Váhika "	...	Balasore	...	200	
70	" Uriya and Navasamvád "	...	Ditto	...	420	
71	" Utkal Dípiká "	...	Cuttack	...	420	
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.						
BENGALI.						
Fortnightly.						
72	" Paridarshak "	...	Sylhet	...	480	
73	" Silchar "	...	Silchar	...	500	
Weekly.						
74	" Srihatta Mihir "	...	Sylhet	..	332	





## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

The chaukidari service.

The *Kasipur Nivási*, of the 27th January, has the following:—KASIPUR NIVASI,  
Jan. 27th, 1893.

The Lieutenant-Governor has proposed to increase the salary of the village chaukidars, with the object of improving their status and making them independent of all outside influence. But, so far as the writer knows, the old chaukidars are so wedded to old notions and ideas, and are so obsequious to the respectable part of the village population, that it is not likely that any increase of salary will have any corrective influence upon them. It is, therefore, desirable that all chaukidars who have passed their 55th year, and are otherwise unfit for their work, should be made to retire on a small gratuity from the Chaukidari Fund, thereby making room for young men. If this is not done, the Lieutenant-Governor's wish in the matter of the improvement of the chaukidari service is not likely to be fulfilled.

2. The *Sanjivani*, of the 28th January, says that on the 14th January last some seven or eight shops in the Kushtia bazar, in the Nadia district, were broken into by thieves,

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 28th, 1893.

Thefts in Kushtia. and property to a considerable value stolen. It is strange that such daring thefts should be committed on the very roadside, the police remaining on the watch all the while.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

Convicting Deputy Magistrates  
in the district of Burdwan.3. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 24th January, has the following:—BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 24th, 1893.

It seems that Babu Narayan Chandra Sen, Deputy Magistrate of Burdwan, is too much of a *khayerkha* of Government. He is a 1st class Magistrate, and can sentence people to two years' imprisonment. As he has lots of things to do, he cannot devote much of his time to judicial work. But the little judicial work he does is enough to prove his judicial incapacity. A list is then given, showing the results of the appeals against his decisions during the six months that he has been in Burdwan. The list shows that the Deputy Magistrate's decisions have been upheld in the case of only 8 persons out of the 32 who appealed. Of the 32 men punished by him, only 8 were really guilty. As regards the rest, sentences have been reduced in the case of 9, while 15 have been acquitted altogether. The number of cases in which these 32 persons were convicted was 16, and in only 4 out of these 16 cases have the Deputy Magistrate's decisions been upheld. Some of the sentences passed by the Deputy Magistrate were heavy—out of all proportion to the nature of the offences committed. Where a fine of Rs. 5 would have been sufficient, the Deputy Magistrate's sentence was two months' imprisonment. The writer does not blame Narayan Babu for his decisions. He is doing his duty according to the light that is in him. He evidently looks upon service as the *summum bonum* of existence, and inflicts punishments simply because he thinks that the Lieutenant-Governor will be pleased by his punishing, and his service will be therefore safe, and he will get increase of pay. Such indiscriminate convictions as these are shaking people's faith in the administration of criminal justice, and who is responsible for it—the Lieutenant-Governor or Narayan Babu's love of service? The writer hopes to get an answer to this question in an early issue of the *Calcutta Gazette*. There are in the country not one Narayan Babu, but lots of Narayan Babus. Another case, recently decided by the Deputy Magistrate of Cutwa, also proves the convicting tendency of Deputy Magistrates, and points to the necessity of a change in the Government's policy in regard to the administration of criminal justice. The particulars of the case are as follows:—

One Bahu Ballabh Mandal, of Morgram, gave Godhan Molla of his village an 8-anna stamp for the purpose of writing a patta. For some reason or other, the writing of the patta was left unfinished, and the stamp, so written upon, remained in the possession of the Molla. Some time after this Tabu Sheikh brought an 8-anna stamp to Godhan Molla, for the purpose of writing a *tamsuk* or bond. Godhan, instead of using the new stamp, used the old one which had been left with him by Bahu Ballabh. The writing on the stamp



was erased for the purpose of writing the bond, but there was no evidence to prove who erased it. The Deputy Magistrate, however, took it for granted that it was the Molla who had done it, and sentenced him to nine months' imprisonment, either under section 261 or under section 263 of the Penal Code. The Molla preferred an appeal to Mr. Kelleher, District Judge of Burdwan. A perusal of the Deputy Magistrate's judgment in the case surprised the Judge, and he exclaimed—'Nine months for this!' He also remarked—'Has this man a conscience?' 'And these men are vested with such powers!' 'And the Deputy thought that, if he did not convict this man, he must be called to account!' In his judgment the Deputy Magistrate, speaking of Godhan Molla, said—'But one thing in his favour is that he is an old man now.' This means that if he had not been an old man, the Deputy Magistrate would have punished him more severely. The Judge quashed the sentence passed by the Deputy Magistrate, and set the prisoner free.

These cases prove the deterioration of the Deputy Magistrates as a class, and the callousness of their hearts caused by constant discharge of criminal duties. It is now for Government to consider whether or not it should change its policy in regard to the administration of criminal justice.

SAHACHAR,  
Jan. 25th, 1893.

4. The *Sahachar*, of the 25th January, has the following question:—

According to the *Pioneer* and the *Englishman*, any interference by the authorities in England with the action taken by Lord Lansdowne and Sir Charles Elliott in the jury question would be tantamount to offering an insult to them. And if the Viceroy has really threatened to resign in the event of his decision in the matter being set aside by the Secretary of State, there can be no doubt that he is countenancing the very improper view which the *Pioneer* and the *Englishman* are taking of the matter. The writer uses the word 'improper' advisedly. The people of India have an idea that, if the authorities here do anything wrong, the wrong will be righted by the English people and the authorities in England. And in this belief of the Indian people lies an advantage for the rulers of India which is not possessed by the rulers of any other country in the world. For instance, if the Russian officials in Central Asia commit any oppression, that oppression constitutes a discredit for the Czar and his Government which there is absolutely no means of removing. It is clear, therefore, that Lord Lansdowne and his newspapers want to destroy this inestimable advantage that is possessed by the Indian rulers. What could be of greater advantage to the British empire in India than that the people living in it should have the idea that, if they can only explain things properly to the people of England, all their grievances will be removed? And if by his *aid* in this jury affair Lord Lansdowne allows this idea of the Indian people to be weakened, the result will be that all distinction between the British and the Russian system of Government will disappear and the people of India will be compelled to think that there can be no remedy for acts of injustice once committed in the British Indian empire. It is for this reason that the writer says, again and again, that Government ought to abandon its baseless notion about prestige. The Governor-General is certainly the greatest Sardar in Asia, but he is at the same time a subject of the Maharani, who has above him the Government in England. The Government in England, again, is under the control of Parliament, whilst Parliament itself is controlled by the English people. Such being the case, what matters it if any of the measures of the authorities here is disapproved by the authorities in England? The decisions of the Indian High Courts, are being daily reversed by the Privy Council, but that does not in any way take away the people's confidence in, and respect for, those courts. It will not certainly be to the advantage of Great Britain, or add to Great Britain's power, if the people of India are compelled to look upon the decisions of the Indian authorities as unalterable. Indeed, there can be no better or surer means of decreasing Great Britain's power than compelling the people of this country to regard the Indian authorities as absolute and autocratic.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 28th, 1893.

5. The *Sanjivani*, of the 28th January, says that a remarkable event has lately taken place in Mymensingh. Srimati Rahatunnisa Khanum, zamindar of Deldwar, was suddenly arrested one day by the police on a charge under

Arrest of a female zamindar in the Mymensingh district.



section 150 of the Penal Code, and was released only on some other zamindars of the same place standing security for her. She will have to appear in court in person, and the case will lead to many sensational disclosures. Let the Lieutenant-Governor note how his indulgent treatment of Mr. Phillips has encouraged that official to commit more oppressions.

A bad trial by the Deputy Commissioner of Sibsagar in Assam.

6. A correspondent of the same paper writes from Assam :—

One Gostha Bihari Pathak, of Sibsagar, rented about 44 bighas of land from one Bholanath Marwari, of Senari, the land having been originally leased from Government by Bholanath, who was in possession of it for the last two years. Before Bholanath's lease the land was taken from Government by Mr. Atkin, Manager of the Nafuk garden. The transaction between Gostha Bihari and Bholanath took place some three or four months ago, and after taking the land Gostha constructed huts on it. But in November last Mr. Atkin sent two sardar coolies to Gostha to tell him to remove his huts and quit the land. And on Gostha's refusing to do so, Mr. Atkin himself came to the spot, accompanied by some of his men, and forcibly expelled Gostha from his house and locked it up. Gostha represented this matter to the Inspector in charge of the Senari thana, but the Inspector refused to entertain any complaint against the Saheb, and told the complainant to seek redress from the Deputy Commissioner of Sibsagar. A complaint was accordingly lodged before the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Monahan, but that officer dismissed the case, and bringing a charge against Gostha himself, fined him Rs. 30 under section 560 of the Criminal Procedure Code. And Gostha's prayer to the court to order Mr. Atkin to release his movable property has not been listened to, and he has been referred to a civil court for his goods. Gostha has applied for copies of the papers in his case in order to move the High Court, but though 10 or 12 days have elapsed since his application, he has not yet been successful in obtaining copies.

Mr. Monahan is a young and exceedingly high-handed officer. Even the police and the Native Magistracy dread him. His amla, too, are in constant dread of him, because he fines them most heavily for the smallest faults.

7. The *Dacca Prukash*, of the 29th January, has the following :—

The Dacca jury list.

The pleaders whose names are found in the Dacca jury list are all junior men, and some say that this is owing to the Lieutenant-Governor's own advice. The Judge of Dacca, Mr. Brett, is reported to have said that, though only junior pleaders have been made jurors this year, senior pleaders will be made jurors next year. This means that the prisoners who will be acquitted this year by incapable jurors will be retried and hanged by good jurors next year. The writer has been always saying that it is the Hakims who are most anxious to destroy the system of jury trial.

#### (d)—Education.

8. The *Hitavadi*, of the 26th January, has the following :—

In the course of his report, reviewing the condition of the people during the last ten years, Mr. Skrine says :—“ But high schools teaching the University course show a very large increase. This is not wholly a matter

Mr. Skrine's view of public education in India.

for congratulation, for it is yearly becoming more apparent that the supply of lads with a smattering of English is larger than the learned professions, commerce, and the public offices can absorb. Yearly swells the residuum whose hopes of a career are blighted by the fierce competition. Hence the deep discontent that ferments a section of the community—insignificant indeed in point of numbers—but able to make its voice heard in the Press and influence public opinion at Home, &c.” This means that the difficulties of the administration have increased in consequence of the spread of education among the people, and that it is high time for Government to take steps to keep the people illiterate, in order that it may do what it likes. And if this be not Mr. Skrine's meaning, then his words can have none. He admits that a large number of people cannot obtain their livelihood, but he does not see that the spread of education in the country is in no way responsible for it, for weavers and other artisans, among whom education has not spread, are being ruined by foreign competition.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 28th, 1893.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Jan. 29th, 1893.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 26th, 1893.



And if the spread of education in the country receives a check, it may have the effect of stopping to some extent newspaper agitation by the public bodies, but it will, by no means, stop famine and scarcity. If therefore no step is first taken to remove the distress of the people, the attempt to keep them ignorant, and illiterate will have a most disastrous effect. For in that case the blind forces which exist in the country will be roused to very mischievous activity by the unbearable pangs of hunger, and, gathering strength from depth of despair, will one day rise, Samsonlike, and pull down this vast fabric of the British Empire, burying under the debris conquerors and conquered alike. It is for this reason that the writer warns Government against adopting the blind policy suggested by Mr. Skrine.

PRATIKAR,  
Jan. 27th, 1893.

9. The *Pratikā*, of the 27th January, says that Government is gradually withdrawing itself from the education of the country. Some years ago it curtailed its grant for high education, in order to devote the saving to primary education. It next required the District Board to pay some of the expenses of primary education. And it has now ordered the municipalities to spend a portion of their income on primary education. Government seems also unwilling to encourage female education, for Sir Charles Elliott has proposed to curtail the grant for female education in Calcutta.

PRAKRITI,  
Jan. 28th, 1893.

10. The *Prākṛiti*, of the 28th January, quotes the following regarding a meaning-book of Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar's *Kathā-māla*, written by Babu Abala Kanta Sen:—

1. In a note on the story of the wolf and the lamb the following lines occur:—

Many English *hakims* are so wicked that, like this wolf, they harass the respectable people of the country under various pretexts, so that even innocent men are not safe. Whenever any selfish object of their own is to be gained, these wicked men make no distinction between the innocent and the guilty, and behave in a most shameless manner.

2. The following is found in pages 25-26 of the meaning-book:—

Those who create differences between friends are the worst of enemies. But the creating of differences between friends is one of the principles State policy. Under the evil advice of the English the present Maharaja of Cashmere has deposed his Minister, Babu Nilamvar Mukherji, and, influenced by English guile, the Nizam, too, has discarded the Minister who was friendly to him. These two rulers will very shortly lose their States and know their real friends from their real enemies.

The writer of the meaning-book has also tried to create differences between the different sections of the Indian people, by likening Native Christians to the tailless jackal in the story, and to the black-faced monkey, the *hanuman*. He also says that, having themselves lost caste, these Native Christians earnestly wish to destroy the castes of all the other people of the country. Page 26.

The following passage is found in page 35:—

When, after conquering a country with the aid of the Indian sepoys, the English divide the riches, &c., obtained by the conquest, the sepoys get nothing and the English soldiers take everything. The word '*nyayaparatā*' (love of justice) is, indeed, in common use, but it is difficult to find examples or cases of *nyayaparatā* which will explain what it means. Considering how men ordinarily conduct themselves, it seems that by *nyayaparatā* they mean nothing else but 'might is right.'

In pages 54-55 are found the following lines:—

"No one will pity the wolf if the lion takes from him by force his ill-gotten lamb. But there is a good deal of uncalled for and senseless sympathy in this world. Men rend the skies with their complaints over the robbing of the wolf by the lion. If the Russians kick Englishmen on the head and take from them the empire which the Mussulmans took by force from the Hindus, and which the English made their own after secretly assassinating the Mussulmans, and if the Germans slap the Russians on the cheek, and take that empire by force from the latter, with whom should we really sympathise?"

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 28th, 1893.

11. Referring to the letter written to the Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle, by the Head Master of the Bhatpara school, suggesting improvements in the middle English

The middle English course.



course, a correspondent of the *Sanjivani*, of the 28th January, says that the course should be so framed as to enable a candidate passing the middle English examination to join the third class of an Entrance school, and go on in that class without difficulty. Though the middle English scholars now read many subjects which are not required to be read for the Entrance Examination, they find themselves far behind the students of the third class of an Entrance school in English. The best thing would be to omit in the middle English schools all those subjects which are not read for the Entrance Examination, and also to omit those which are commenced to be taught in the third class of an Entrance school, for instance, for Physical Geography and Mensuration, Geometry and Algebra, in English may be substituted. The correspondent sees no necessity for substituting Sanskrit for Bengali in the middle English examination, as Bengali is allowed as an alternative subject in the second language paper in the Entrance Examination. And he thinks it desirable that the Bengali student should acquire some knowledge of his mother-tongue in his early years. But the course in Bengali literature should be more compact than it is now. It would be better if the authorities would publish a Bengali course for the candidates, instead of compelling them to purchase half-a-dozen books for the purpose of reading selected portions therefrom.

In connection with this subject, the correspondent draws the attention of the authorities to the pecuniary condition of the teachers of middle English schools, and recommends the appointment of such of them as show good results at the examinations as examiners for the primary examinations. This will be to them an encouragement, which will make them better workers.

12. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the inefficiency of the schools in Assam in general, and in Sibsagar in particular, and attributes this to the employment of incompetent teachers. The Sibsagar Entrance Schools, one of which is maintained by Government and the other by private agency, though sending up boys to the Entrance Examination for the last two years, have failed to pass a single student.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 28th, 1893.

13. The *Saraswat Patra*, of the 28th January, says that the Resolution recently issued by the Bengal Government regarding the punishment of malpractices at public examinations, though a step in the right direction, goes a little too far, the punishment prescribed being rather severe.

SARASWAT PATRA,  
Jan. 28th, 1893.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

A new municipality in the district of Burdwan.

14. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 24th January, writes as follows:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 24th, 1893.

Some people of Purvasthali, a village in the district of Burdwan, have sent a memorial to Government, praying for the establishment of a municipality, which should include within its area the villages of Purvasthali, Chupi, and Kashthasali. The zamindars and the people of these villages have, however, since sent a protest to the Magistrate on the subject, and the Magistrate has told them in reply that he will see that no municipality is established in any one of these villages. In the meantime, the local police has been asked to ascertain the number of adult males residing in the villages, the number of pukka houses in them, the amount of the chaukidari tax paid by the villages, and the professions which they follow. It seems that the question, whether or no a municipality should be established in any one of these villages, will be decided on the result of this enquiry. Now, the villages in question are in a ruined condition. Excepting a few zamindars and talukdars, most of the high caste people of the villages are poor, and are unable to pay even the chaukidari tax. The lower classes of people are in a still poorer condition, and do not even get two meals a day. As the villages were at one time in a flourishing condition, they contain many pukka houses, but the condition of the villagers ought not to be judged by the number of such houses. A municipality cannot be maintained here without an annual income of Rs. 6,000. Now, the income from cattle pounds, ferries, and the chaukidari tax may amount at the most to Rs. 2,500, while the road cess may yield Rs. 1,000. Therefore, if the proposed municipality is established, the remaining Rs. 2,500 will have to be collected from the poor



villagers. It is therefore clear that the establishment of the proposed municipality will largely increase the burdens of the people. The health of the villages is not worse than that of other places, and so a municipality is not needed on sanitary grounds. The roads are not in a good condition, but their repairs or reconstruction may be undertaken by the Local Board.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 28th, 1893.

Execution of decrees for arrears  
of rent.

15. The *Sanjivani*, of the 28th January, has the following:—

In a rent case heard in appeal by the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Tottenham, it has been held that, "where a landlord obtains a decree for rent against his tenant, which is on the face of it a decree for a sum of money without creating a charge upon the tenure, he is at liberty in execution to bring to sale property of his judgment-debtor other than the tenure itself." Of course, there is nothing to be said against this ruling itself, but its effect will be that it will be henceforward impossible to compel the zamindar to attach, or bring to sale for arrears of rent, losing or non-paying holdings. And the hardship will be greatest in the case of tenure-holders and proprietors of occupancy holdings held at fixed rates of rent, for, unlike agricultural raiyats, they cannot relinquish their holdings without the zamindar's consent. They will have, therefore, to go on incurring loss on account of their non-paying holdings, while the zamindar will find it perfectly easy, in consequence of the above ruling, to recover his arrears by attaching and bringing to sale any property of the defaulting raiyat other than that in respect of which default has occurred. Referring to the difficulty experienced by those who possess small shares in properties held jointly in recovering their respective rents from the tenants, and to the hardship caused to those tenants by the practice followed by these co-sharers, who are not always on the best of terms with one another, of demanding more than their legitimate share of rent, the writer says that it would be well if holdings owned by several co-sharers were made liable to be sold in execution of decrees for arrears of rent. This arrangement would greatly benefit the tenants and the co-sharers themselves, while, by placing the whole holding in the possession of one person, it would make it possible for him to make improvements upon it.

SANJIVANI,

16. The same paper says that, during his visit to Chittagong, the Lieutenant-Governor expressed satisfaction at the absence of any complaint against the settlement work which is going on in that district. But His Honour should have known that the petition which was drawn up for presentation to him, and which contained many complaints against the settlement work, was not allowed to be presented. Will any one say after this that official tours can do any good to the people?

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Jan. 31st, 1893.

17. A correspondent of the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 31st January, says that the last seven or eight years accumulation of water in the *bil*, called the Bil Chalan, in the Rajshahi district, has prevented all cultivation therein. In other years a portion of the water in the *bil* used to find an outlet through the river Kachikuta. But the mouth of the river having nearly silted up this year, no escape of water from the *bil* has been possible. The mouth of the river is nearly a quarter of a mile broad, and if this portion of the river is deepened 10 or 12 cubits, it may be possible to grow crops in the *bil*. And if this is not done, this part of the country may be visited by scarcity. Some 50 or 60 villages around the *bil* regularly pay the road cess, for which they have, up to this time, received no return.

(h)—General.

SAMACHAR,  
Jan. 25th, 1893.

Sir Charles Elliott's influence on  
the Administration.

18. The *Sachar*, of the 25th January, has the following:—

Sir Charles Elliott is faring as despots have always fared. Every one of his officials is afraid of him, and an attempt is being consequently made to hide



facts from his knowledge. In reply to the address presented to him in Chittagong, His Honour expressed satisfaction that no complaints had been made about the survey and settlement operations there. But the fact is, that the people of Chittagong did complain of those operations, but their Magistrate, who was in charge of them, struck off from the address the portion which related to that subject. Sir Charles has made the Magistrates *zaburdust*, and they are, therefore, exercising their powers very freely. The moral of this is, the more interfering a ruler becomes, the more will the officials under him try to deceive him or evade his eyes. And they cannot help doing this. Sir Charles must have his finger in every pie, and the officials are so over-worked under this system of constant interference, that they have hardly time to breathe. The Bengal civilians, as a rule, like to act upon liberal principles, but Sir Charles' interference stands in the way of their doing so. Many Magistrates look upon His Honour's order about more convictions as contrary to the spirit of the times, but they are compelled to give effect to it for the sake of their livelihood.

19. The *Samay*, of the 27th January, says that the Lieutenant-Governor's Mr. Westmacott's excise administration. vigilance over the different departments of the administration has not been productive of the good which might have been expected from it. Under an order of the Government of India, the duty on ganja ought to have been increased at the rate of a rupee per seer from the month of April 1892. But owing to Mr. Westmacott's negligence, this order has not been given effect to, and the consequent loss to the Government revenue has amounted to nearly two lakhs of rupees. Though the loss has been due to Mr. Westmacott's carelessness, yet the Board of Revenue has dismissed its excise head clerk for it. Mr. Westmacott's high-handed proceedings have made the excise service very unpleasant to those employed in it. Mr. Westmacott has rescinded the circulars which were issued with the permission of Government by his predecessor in office, has deprived people of the promotions which were granted to them by him, and called upon them to refund the increase of salary which they have drawn in consequence. Does Sir Charles Elliott take no notice of these high-handed proceedings? It is clear from the annual excise administration reports that Government has suffered loss in its excise revenue all the time Mr. Westmacott has been in charge of the Excise Department. There are districts which Mr. Westmacott has never visited. He never permits any officer under him to inspect large areas within a short time, but he himself does the very reverse of this. His inspection of the excise work in Chittagong took him only three or four hours, and he returned by the same steamer in which he had gone. It is hoped that Government will no longer remain indifferent in the matter of the excise administration. As Mr. Westmacott's jurisdiction extends over a large area, his high-handed proceedings affect a very large number of men.

SAMAY,  
Jan. 27th, 1893.

20. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 2nd February, says that the necessity of supplying rations for the troops who are so constantly travelling by the Grand Trunk Road this year has put the zamindars to great hardship, especially as scarcity is prevailing all over the country. And though the zamindars try to fulfil their duty in this respect to the best of their ability, they are still often harassed by the Collectors' nazirs and peons for extra gratification. Again, the zamindars have to grant receipts for larger amounts than are given to them. And the writer is astonished to hear that the Hindu zamindars were ordered this year to supply beef for the troops. During the century and a half that the British rule has been established in this country, this is the first time that Hindu zamindars have been required to execute such an unreasonable order as this. May Heaven protect the Hindu zamindars in such a dilemma! The Hindu will never supply *beef*, even if his refusal to supply it involves loss of wealth, honour, and life. Why is Government doing these perverse things?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR,  
CHANDRIKA,  
Feb. 2nd 1893.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

The Habitual Offenders Bill.

21. The *Hitavadi*, of the 26th January, thus criticises the Habitual Offenders Bill—

The Bill proposes to re-enact the section which was omitted from the Criminal Procedure Code of 1872, because of the ambiguity which attached to

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 26th, 1893.



the expressions 'dangerous characters' and 'men who lead a bad livelihood.' Sir Philip Hutchins wants to define 'habitual offenders' as those who have been proved guilty of any offence in a court of law. But the Lieutenant-Governor is not satisfied with this, and wants to subject to police surveillance men who will be suspected as *badmashes* by the police. And he wants to empower the police to search the houses of those suspected men. Very inauspicious for the people of India must have been the hour in which His Honour set foot in this country. Fortunately, however, the Government of India has disallowed the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal. Sir Philip's statement that the police will simply keep a register of the suspected persons, but will not be permitted to oppress them in any way is no doubt reassuring, but it is doubtful with what fidelity the provision will be complied with by the police. The section, relating to the imposition of fines on villages in which untraced thieves may be lurking, is open to very grave objections, and its enactment will be productive of very great oppression. The writer is at a loss to see why a law of this nature is being enacted in this time of profound peace. As the number of thieves and *badmashes* has not increased, there is absolutely no necessity for a law like this. Government is enacting this law simply to make the administration more rigorous than it already is.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 26th, 1893.

Reconstruction of the Bengal  
Legislative Council

2. The same paper has the following:—

At the last meeting of the Bengal Council, the Lieutenant-Governor stated that the Council would be reconstituted within a month. It is, therefore, clear that, directly instructions come from the Secretary of State, the constitution of the new Council will be determined by the authorities, without giving the public any opportunity of discussing the matter. Government is apparently bent on doing things in its own way, without consulting the public, under the impression that the people may grumble at first, but will get accustomed next. It was under this impression that the jury notification was issued so suddenly, and without consulting the public. It is true that Government is under no legal necessity of publishing beforehand the rules regarding the reconstitution of the Councils, but it is, nevertheless, its duty to do so, with a view of ascertaining public opinion on the subject. At the St. Andrew's Dinner the Lieutenant-Governor said that Government gains nothing by concealing anything, and he ought to make good his word in connection with the reconstitution of the Legislative Council.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BANGAVASI,  
Jan. 28th, 1893.

23. The *Bangavasi*, of the 28th January, asks Mr. Manisty, Magistrate of Hooghly, if he knows of the distress which is prevailing in thana Dhaniakhali within his district. If he does, the writer will be glad to know what steps he has taken to alleviate it.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Jan. 31st, 1893.

24. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 31st January, apprehends scarcity in all parts of the country. The condition of the crops in the districts of Hooghly, 24-Parganas, Bankura, and Burdwan is such as to cause such apprehension. The authorities ought not to remain indifferent simply because no deaths from scarcity have yet taken place.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BANGAVASI,  
Jan. 28th, 1893.

Water-scarcity.

25. The *Bangavasi*, of the 28th January, has the following:—

- (1) Great scarcity of water is felt in village Sundalpur, within the jurisdiction of the Karimpur thana in the Nadia district. There is only one tank in the village, and its water is too foul to be used for drinking purposes.
- (2) The only source from which the people of Ghoshnagar, within the jurisdiction of the Baghanpara thana in the Jessore district, draw their supply of drinking water is the Bhairab river; but its foul water is spreading disease among the people who use it. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the matter.



26. The *Sanjivani*, of the 28th January, says that the native officials in Kushtia, in the Nadia district, propose holding a fair. But these officials should remember that, considering the way in which they are held, these fairs do more harm than good, and that, in a time of distress like the present, money should not be squandered in this way.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 28th, 1893.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,  
*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 4th February 1893.*

